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Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities

Statement submitted by the Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2005/100.

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Presentation of the Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture

As representative of the Spanish Foundation, the Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture, I would like first to thank the NGO section of DESA for organizing this forum. Our Foundation which has the general consultative status with ECOSOC is playing a major and concrete role in the field with the support of the UN-NGO-IRENE to enhance its contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the MDGs and the Millennium Declaration

Since its establishment in 1987, the Foundation is focusing its activities on the promotion of the social and economical development, in agreement with the human being self-respect and with the cultural identity of social groups and nations. Its main projects are implemented across the Mediterranean area in 7 countries, South America and Asia. They are related to education, rural development, capacity building and other sectors and especially promotion of peace, which is an objective of the Barcelona Declaration of 1995 as well as a major challenge for the United Nations. More than 130 projects have been executed by FPSC in collaboration with more than 32 different local partners and NGOs for a total amount of more than 50 millions of euros.

During the period 2001-2004 the Foundation has implemented 78 projects in Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. All the projects are part of a four-year Strategic Plan called Strategy for the Development of the Mediterranean area, co-financed by the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

With regard to Structure and working methodology all the projects are being implemented directly on the spot through local partners who are the experts on each sector of intervention. The Foundation is responsible for the correct formulation and close follow-up of each project, through its permanent delegations in the different countries. The Foundation is also providing whenever necessary technical support through external consultants in the required subjects.

The Foundation encouraged the creation of the READI (Euro Arab network for the development and the social integration) to promote the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue through the permanent communication among local agents (civil society, private sector and public administrations). Currently 44 organizations from both sides of the Mediterranean are part of the READI, which help them bring their voice and work to international forums and share their experiences with the NGO community and other stakeholders.

As a result of this work, the Foundation together with the READI organized several annual meetings where organizations specialized in different sectors discuss common subjects, and draw conclusions and recommendations of great utility for international donors, local communities and all agents involved.

To evaluate in depth, the impact of its strategy and its effective contribution to the implementation of the MDGs in the Mediterranean region, FPSC hired an external consultant team to carry out an independent evaluation of the whole Strategy. The conclusions of this evaluation will be published together with the final report of the Strategic Plan.

The evaluation will consider two different perspectives: on the one hand the classical perspective based on the general accepted criteria: Effectiveness, efficiency, impact, relevance and sustainability; on the other hand a new perspective based on the Millennium Development Goals trying to determine how our projects belonging to the strategic plan have helped to the achievement of the MDGs, in each of the countries where the Foundation works.

Taking into consideration the conclusions of the evaluation and after analysing current geographical and sectoral priorities of the Foundation, a next Strategic Plan 2005-2008 will be prepared, continuing the work done up to now and tackling new challenges.

This work will be finalised shortly and hopefully presented to the ECOSOC HLS of 29 June – 1 July 2005.

Finally it is important to mention that statistics related to each MDG, each project and each country are available at the Foundation.